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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$2 MILLION
TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (#40072)

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has awarded \$1,589,865 to Louisiana State University (LSU), Petroleum Engineering Department, and \$651,197 in matching funds to LSU under the Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) program to conduct a variety of environmental studies, MMS officials announced today.

"LSU's Petroleum Engineering Department will investigate and improve methods for prevention, early detection, remediation, and post analysis of underground blowouts that occur in a marine environment," said MMS Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman.

"Under the CMI program, since 1992 MMS has contributed more than \$3.5 million to support 24 research studies at LSU and other Louisiana universities," Quarterman said. MMS funding is matched by the university.

"The CMI program is a model example of how a combined effort between state and federal agencies can strengthen our scientific and environmental knowledge, and greatly enhance the decisionmaking process," she said.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty collection program.

The MMS Environmental Studies Program has funded more than \$600 million in scientific research, including socioeconomic, biological, and marine habitat studies, since 1974. More than 90 percent of these studies are performed under cooperative agreements with state and federal research organizations, academic institutions, and private industry.

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